

TORONTO



#SEETORONTONOW

150
BEST CANADIAN
THINGS
from Eh to Zed



**ALL
CANADIAN,**

**ALL IN
TORONTO!**

**HAPPY 150TH
CANADA!**



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FIRST UP!

Local news & newsmakers that have gone national—and beyond.



1 CANADA'S SUPERHERO: PENNY OLEKSIK

Toronto's 16-year-old medal collector showed her mettle at the 2016 Rio Olympics, where she won a record-setting four medals, the most by a Canadian in a single Summer Games. Oleksiak is Canada's youngest Olympic champ, and one of our most illustrious, setting one Olympic swim record and five Canadian records in

Rio. The sport phenom blasts Drake before her races and, like any typical local teen, has posted on Instagram about the difficulty of scoring Drake tickets. What sets her apart? Drake posting an invitation to a future show. And why not? Oleksiak *owned* summer 2016, just as she owned the Rio swim podium. Torontonians can't wait to see what comes next for our splashiest homegrown sports star.

3 TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

The 2016–17 season marks the 100th anniversary of the Toronto Maple Leafs. The NHL team is holding events to celebrate the occasion. Look for sharp new uniforms featuring the distinctive silver Centennial Anniversary logo, and visit nhl.com for event info, including public skates at BMO Field.



2

CANADA'S FIRST BEE CITY

The world's honeybee population has taken a hit in recent years, but Toronto leads the way in protecting our buzzy buddies, who help pollinate one-third of the food we eat. As Canada's first Bee City, Toronto has been recognized for nurturing pollinator-friendly habitat such as the Humber Bay Butterfly Habitat, the Evergreen Brick Works, and the Franklin Children's Garden on Centre Island and High Park's Black Oak Savannah restoration areas. Toast biodiversity—as well as Toronto's hardworking bees—with a pint of Mill St. Brewery's Royal Stinger Honey Beer, locally made with honey produced by the rooftop hives of downtown's Fairmont Royal York Hotel.



4 HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL!

The Toronto Caribbean Carnival is Canada's biggest celebration of Caribbean culture. And 2017 is a historic year for the event, formerly known as Caribana. Here are the numbers behind its success.



1967

Year of the first Caribana, a grassroots parade organized by Toronto's Caribbean community in celebration of Canada's centennial anniversary



50th

The Toronto Caribbean Carnival celebrates its golden anniversary in 2017

1,000,000 APPROX. NUMBER OF SPECTATORS AT THE 2016 CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL PARADE

50,000 Approx. number of spectators at the first Caribana



4-5 HOURS

Time it takes a Carnival mas band to travel the parade route

MOST POPULAR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN FOR CANADIANS OF CARIBBEAN HERITAGE

 **1 JAMAICA**
256,915 people

 **2 HAITI**
137,995 people

 **3 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**
68,225 people



627,590

Population of Canadians with Caribbean origins

5 PEAMEAL BACON SANDWICH

It's official: the peameal bacon sandwich is Toronto's signature dish! A savoury symbol of culinary independence, "Canadian bacon" is a lean, pink and yellow-peameal-dusted alternative to the more common American-style bacon. Celebrate the Hogtown classic at St. Lawrence Market's **Carousel Bakery**, which serves 2,600 of the sandwiches on a typical Saturday.



6

STEAM WHISTLE BEER

Housed in a historic railway roundhouse, **Steam Whistle Brewing** produces a Canadian classic: Steam Whistle Pilsner. Take a public tour of one of Toronto's finest craft breweries.



8

DID YOU KNOW...
Canada Dry ginger ale ("the champagne of ginger ales") was invented in Toronto?

Peoples Eatery



7

CANADIAN CUISINE

Take your taste buds on a journey from east to west with a stop at **Hopgoods Foodliner**, where the oysters and donairs are a matter of Atlantic pride, followed by the heritage flavours of **Boralia**, whose menu celebrates Canada's origins, with aboriginal dishes as well as those of early settlers and 18th- and 19th-century immigrants. For a snapshot of the whole country, **Canoe** offers a menu that features dishes with ingredients sourced from across the country, and inspired by the nation's diverse cultures and flavours.



MULTICULTURAL FOOD MASH-UPS

As cultures mingle across one of the world's most ethnically diverse cities, "traditional" homeland dishes become multicultural mash-ups, true palate teasers that delight and amaze.

Take, for instance, the fusion of the Kalbi Beef Banh Mi from **Banh Mi Boys**. Here, Korean-style marinated short ribs get wedged between the crispy-on-the-outside-soft-in-the-middle bun and the crunchy carrots, radish and cilantro of a Vietnamese banh mi sandwich. It's the perfect pan-Asian blend.

Ever wonder what Mexico, India and Indonesia have in common? Queen West's **New York Subs & Burritos** marries the three culinary cultures with its Grilled Chicken Satay Jumbo Burrito. Expect a roti-like sandwich with satay chicken, curried vegetables and crisp iceberg lettuce wrapped up Mexican-style—with French dressing added for good measure.

Italian food is a heavy hitter in Toronto's culinary scene, and sometimes its influence pops up in Jamaican or Japanese

cuisine, too. At Kensington Market's **Rasta Pasta**, classics like gnocchi, lasagna and linguine are spiked with ackee, salt fish, calaloo and coconut curry sauce. And then there's the classic Canadian fusion dish: sushi pizza. Wander into any sushi joint in the city and you'll find it—a crispy rice pancake topped with salmon and "special sauce," a contemporary nod to the classic Italian snack. Scarborough's **Niji Sushi** does it particularly well, with the addition of avocado, tobiko and crabmeat. It's a revelation, albeit far from anything nonna used to make.

One of the city's most eclectic menus, however, has got to belong to Chinatown's **Peoples Eatery**. There's surely no other place where you can order traditional Jewish potato latkes, General Tso-fu and a Korean-style sashimi salad all at the same table. The restaurant pays tribute to the neighbourhood's rich ethnic history, which over the years has shifted from Jewish delis to Cantonese eateries to a modern mix of pan-Asian restaurants and cafés.

STEAM WHISTLE: KAYLA CHOBOTIUK; BOREALS



10 WILD BLUEBERRIES Mid-August is the time to savour Ontario's wild blueberries. Comb farmers' markets or head to **Evergreen Brick Works'** annual Wild Blueberry Festival.

11 RED ROSE TEA Canada's comfort cuppa since 1894, Red Rose orange pekoe tea is a pantry staple from coast to coast. Find it at local supermarkets, or hit the flea market for cool vintage tins.



12 ALBERTA BEEF Alberta beef is the foodie gold standard. Tuck into a fine tenderloin or bone-in rib-eye at **Jacobs & Co. Steakhouse**, easily the city's slickest steak house. But growing numbers of steak enthusiasts argue that locally raised beef gives Alberta beef a run for its money. Judge for yourself. Chef Rob Rossi offers locally raised butcher cuts at **Bestellen**, while **Cluny Bistro & Boulangerie** offers up classic steak frites sourced from Ontario's Grey County.

13 SALMON Canada is one of the world's top producers of both farmed and wild-caught salmon, from our coasts. Bring your Canadian salmon home two ways: cold-smoked slices from **Kristapsons**, voted the best in Toronto (keep it refrigerated!), or shelf stable and vacuum sealed (available at souvenir and duty-free shops).

14 ICE HOUSES Ice lounges are the perfect place to relax "on the rocks" with friends. Toronto's **CHILL Ice House** takes the trend one step further, as Canada's first year-round venue. (In some cases, it's true: Canadians do freeze all summer long.)



15 MONTREAL-STYLE BAGELS Hand-rolled, boiled in honey water and then baked in a wood-fired oven, Montreal-style bagels are Canada's carb-y gift to the world. Find 'em, along with artisanal cream cheese, at St. Lawrence Market's **St. Urbain Bagel**.

HOME IN T.O.

17 KARDINAL OFFISHALL

Canada's hip-hop ambassador to the world, the multi-Juno-winning recording artist, producer and record exec is an unapologetic Toronto booster. Olympic torchbearer for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, he'll forever be loved for "The Anthem," his crowd-pumping ode to the city where he was born and raised.



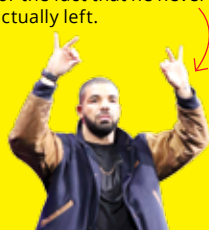
18 RUSH

Formed in Toronto in 1968, the power trio rocks some impressive stats: more than 40 million records sold worldwide; Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees; and members Geddy Lee, Alex Lifeson and Neil Peart are Officers of the Order of Canada.



19 DRAKE

The undisputed king of Toronto, Drake is credited with putting The 6ix (he coined that nickname, by the way) on the world's pop culture map. Raptors booster, OVO Fest figurehead and local entrepreneur (he co-owns Fring's with celeb chef Susur Lee), the superstar may be Canada's best-known export—save for the fact that he never actually left.



SO CANADIAN!

16 THE TWO-FOUR Headed to a party with your Canadian friends? Bring a two-four. That's a case of 24 cans or bottles of beer—bonus points if they're Molson Canadian. (Extra bonus points if the party is on "May 2-4 weekend," as Victoria Day weekend is known, regardless of what calendar days it falls on in a given year.)



20 → 24

MAPLE MANIA

Can Canada be encapsulated in a flavour? If so, it's maple (sorry, peameal bacon). The maple leaf is our country's flag emblem, and nowhere does the sweet sap flow as freely, or as tastily, as here.

Toronto is a mecca for maple lovers, for our amazing array of maple products and our proximity to prime maple sugar bushes. Here's how to enjoy our national flavour, in and around town.

MAPLE SYRUP

Boil maple sap down to concentrate its flavours, and you get Canada's gift to the world: maple syrup. Snap it up in souvenir shops, supermarkets and food shops. Maple syrup comes in light and dark varieties, each with its own distinct character. Ever wonder what happens if the syrup continues to boil down? It turns into the flavour bombs known as maple butter and maple sugar.



MAPLE WATER

Mildly sweet when tapped from the sugar maple tree in early spring, maple water (a.k.a. maple sap) is rich in electrolytes and minerals. Pick it up at a local health food store, and gulp it



Maple sugar bush



straight up (especially after a workout). Try it in a smoothie, or in place of water for stovetop coffee.

MAPLE LATTES

A seasonal cafe offering, maple lattes use maple syrup or sugar to give your morning joe the lush, indulgent sweetness of maple. Pair it with a **maple-dip doughnut**



from **Tim Hortons** for a double-maple experience!

MAPLE CREAM COOKIES

A box of maple cream cookies, widely available at supermarkets, souvenir shops and the duty-free shop at Toronto Pearson International Airport, says "Oh! Canada" in the most delicious way possible.



MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVALS

Visiting Toronto in March or early April? Watch maple syrup being made and sample local delicacies at the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's annual, month-long **Sugarbush Maple Syrup Festival** at multiple locations across the Greater Toronto Area. Check online for 2017 dates.



SO CANADIAN!

25 **HOW TO SAY "EH"** It's pronounced like the letter A, and is used to (1) solicit affirmation ("Fish are really biting today, eh?"), or (2) check if you're listening ("So I was watching the game, eh? And then this moose comes stampeding onto the ice, eh?"). Want to "eh" like a local? Watch some classic Bob and Doug McKenzie videos on YouTube.

EH!

26 ICEWINE

Luscious Canadian icewine—made from grapes left to freeze on the vine to concentrate their flavour—is world famous. Buy a bottle at the **LCBO** or, better yet, tour the terroir in Niagara.

27 BANNOCK

Bannock is Canada's original bread. The indigenous creation evolved with regional variations of ingredients and cooking methods, but it's typically made from flour, cornmeal and nut meal. Try it at (where else?) **Bannock**.

28 CANADIAN MUSTARD

With 36 award-winning varieties, the widely available **Kozlik's Canadian Mustard** passes muster with discerning sandwich lovers, salad dressing mixologists and marinade crafters.



29 BEAVERTAILS

Paddle-shaped fried dough is decked out with a variety of decadent toppings, including cinnamon sugar, and chocolate hazelnut spread with peanut butter and Reese's Pieces. The Canadian classic (called *Queues de Castor*, in Quebec) can be enjoyed at the official BeaverTails café on Queens Quay West, and at Canada's Wonderland and the Toronto Zoo.

30 FIDDLEHEADS

Enjoy Ontario's late-spring fiddlehead harvest. The foraged, fresh greens usually hit restaurant menus and farmers' markets in May.



31 BUTTER TARTS

Ontario is known for ooey-gooey butter tarts. You can find them throughout town, but try local faves **Mabel's Bakery**, **Harbord Bakery** and **Bonjour Brioche**, for starters.

32 BIRCH SYRUP

Try birch syrup, maple's more complex sister, with semi-sweet nuances of honey, caramel and licorice, plus balsamic spice. Intrigued? **Forbes Wild Foods** offers this and other traditional preserves.

33 POUTINE

Although it was created in Quebec, many believe that poutine has been perfected in Toronto, where dozens of pouteries offer the signature dish of hand-cut fries, squeaky cheese curds and rich gravy. Try it straight up, or opt for a revisionist take on the classic, piled high with extra toppings ranging from bacon and maple syrup (**Poutini's House of Poutine**) to chicken chili (**Smoke's Poutinerie**) to the OTT combo of foie gras and white truffles (**Holy Chuck**).



34 MCINTOSH APPLES

Bite into the taste of Ontario! While grown throughout Canada, the tart and juicy McIntosh apple was first discovered locally.

35 CIDER, TORONTO STYLE

Brickworks Ciderhouse, Toronto's first cidery, crafts refreshing hard apple ciders from just one ingredient: Ontario heritage apples. It doesn't get more local—or more Canadian—than this!



36

WHISKY



Crown Royal Northern Harvest Rye's surprise 2016 World Whisky of the Year victory boosted the profile of Canadian whiskies. A handful of Toronto craft spirit distilleries have sprung up in the Greater Toronto Area. Expect to sample their wares in a few years' time, but for now, head to **Char No.5 Whisky Bar** for all-Canadian whisky flights, and Prohibition-inspired cocktails.

37

BLOODY CAESAR



A Canadian brunch classic, the Caesar mixes vodka, Clamato juice, Worcestershire and hot sauce in a celery-salt-rimmed glass with garnishes galore. According to Mott's—the makers of Clamato—an impressive 350 million Bloody Caesars are consumed in Canada each year. Two of Toronto's most dramatic garnishes? A lobster tail and pizza slice at **Hunters Landing** or fried chicken and waffles at **Harlem Underground**.

38

JOSEPH MIMRAN

When it comes to Canada's fashion landscape, Joseph Mimran is one of our style patriarchs—high and low. He founded the budget-friendly **Joe Fresh** label, sold in stand-alone stores and select Loblaws and Real Canadian Superstore locations. (Loading up on quinoa? Why not toss a shift dress into your grocery cart, too?) On the luxe end, he contributes to **Pink Tartan**, womenswear designed by his wife, Kimberley Newport-Mimran. Pink Tartan exudes a chic elegance, with fans such as Kim Cattrall, and can be found at its tony Yorkville boutique and in upscale department stores Holt Renfrew and Hudson's Bay.



39

UMBRA:
CONTEMPORARY
CANADIAN
HOUSEWARES

Design-forward, budget-friendly housewares label Umbra began with just one window treatment. Faced with a dearth of options, founder **Paul Rowan** (then a college student) created a printed-paper window shade. Fast-forward 30 years, and Rowan, recently inducted into the Canadian Marketing Hall of Legends, has grown Umbra into an international brand. But its roots remain here: "I love the diversity of design in Toronto," says Rowan. "I've travelled around the world visiting stores and galleries, and we have a fresh, international look."



40 CANADA GOOSE

A Canadian heritage label proven in some of the coldest places on earth—from Antarctica to Mount Everest—Canada Goose keeps Canucks toasty throughout winter. Score your own at the CF Toronto Eaton Centre shopping mall (Saks Fifth Avenue and Nordstrom both carry the label), where you can take a gander at artist Michael Snow's permanent installation *Flight Stop*, a collection of soaring Canada geese.

41 ROOTS

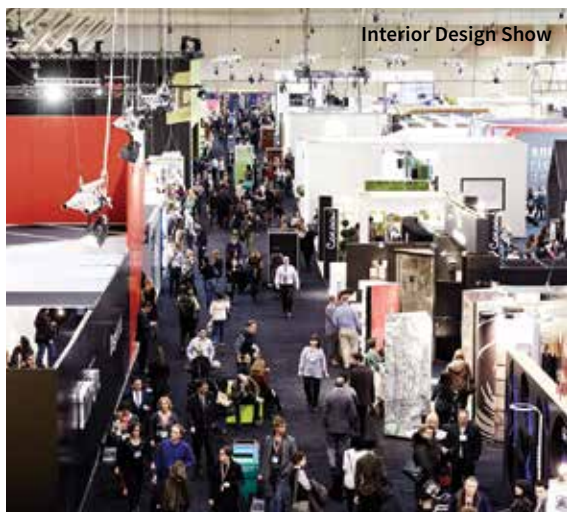
The iconic Canadian brand is renowned for its leather goods, Muskoka-cool casual wear, and a damn fine selection of flannel, to boot.

42 SMYTHE

Feminine tailoring and a classic sartorial sensibility have made Andrea Lenczner and Christie Smythe's jackets an instant hit since their first collection back in 2004. The brand got a global boost when HRH Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge, wore it to several globetrotting events.



MIREVA ACIERO/GETTY IMAGES; UMBRA: MAX MUMBY/INDIGO/GETTY IMAGES; RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR/GETTY IMAGES



Interior Design Show

44—45

HUDSON'S BAY SWAG



Two iconic pieces of Canadiana come from the country's oldest department store: First, there's the **Hudson's Bay Company multi-stripe point blanket**, introduced into the fur trade in 1780. Its traditional green, red, yellow and indigo stripes, initially selected for their ease of reproduction, are as covetable a design today as they were then. More recently, it's those ubiquitous **Red Mittens**. Launched in 2009, the knitted mitts have raised more than \$27 million for our Olympic athletes. Get your hands on (and in) both at the Hudson's Bay flagship store on Queen Street West.



SARAH RICHARDSON

Canada's design sweetheart, Sarah Richardson is more than an HGTV superstar (check out her latest show, *Real Potential*). Richardson also runs her own design firm and designs a fabric collection for Kravet. Here's what the décor maven loves most about Toronto design.

Eclecticism

"Toronto's scene is both established and emerging. Whether your taste runs to conservative traditionalism or experimental modernism, you can find whatever you're in the market for."

The Festival Scene

"I never miss the **Art With Heart** auction for **Casey House**—it's a super way to buy great art from emerging and established artists in a fun environment. The **Interior Design Show** brings the design community every year and draws a variety of global talent and speakers."

Toronto Labels

"There are so many talented minds in the city: **Virginia**

Johnson [prints], **Smythe** [jackets], **brunswick+co.** [bags], and **Ridgely Studio Works** [lighting and furniture]."

The Retail Scene

"My favourite journeys are through the vintage, antique and consignment shops—the thrill of the hunt provides a great adventure! **The Door Store**, **Ribbehege & Azevedo** and **Decorum Decorative Finds** are great uptown spots.

The vintage scene on Queen East, West and downtown never lets me down: **Vintage Fine Objects**, **The Queen West Antique Centre**, **Guff**, **Bronze**, **Phil's**, **Ethel 20th Century Living**, **Zig Zag**, and **Eclectisaurus**."



46—47

MAPLE TREES + "THE MAPLE LEAF FOREVER"



Alongside a collection of fauna—the beaver, the moose, Mounties!—our ubiquitous maple tree is a heartfelt symbol of pride. We even have a song about it—"The Maple Leaf Forever," composed in 1867, the year of Canada's Confederation. The Leslieville-neighbourhood tree that inspired it toppled during a 2013 windstorm, but a carved portion lives on at the **Ontario Science Centre**.



Tuck Shop Trading Co.

HIP 48 → 56

SOUVENIR SHOPS

Here are our fave places to find design-forward Canadiana and Torontoniana for every taste.

Drake General Store

Trendy, quirky, with house lines of apparel, beauty and made-in-Toronto artisanal foods.

MUST-BUYS: YYZ Tyvek luggage tags; Toronto Eats tea towel

Blue Banana Market

A marketplace packed to the rafters with kitschy Canadiana, plus local brands and artisans.

MUST-BUYS: Toronto map necklace, earrings and cufflinks

Jays Shop

Home of official merchandise from Canada's only Major League Baseball team—and 2016 American League Division Series champs—the Toronto Blue Jays.

MUST-BUYS: Toronto VS. Everybody apparel; cool caps

Real Sports Apparel

Authentic merch from Toronto's big teams: The TFC, Maple Leafs, Raptors and Marlies.

MUST-BUYS: Raptors throwback Hardwood Classic Huskies Jerseys

Harbourfront Centre Shop

Artful accessories, ceramics, glassware, jewellery and more by Canadian and local artists.

MUST-BUYS: Handmade pieces from Harbourfront Centre's artists-in-residence

CN Tower Gift Shop

Canadiana and local souvenirs at the western hemisphere's tallest freestanding structure.

MUST-BUYS: CN Tower Architecture Series mugs, souvenir shirts



Drake General Store

Crywolf

A whimsical indie shop, with locally designed and made goods, including limited-edition silkscreened T-shirts.

MUST-BUYS: Enamelled lapel pins, like chubby blue jay and "trash panda" (a local term of endearment for the humble raccoon)

Tuck Shop Trading Co.

Rustic cottage-meets-city vibe, with clothing and accessories designed in Canada.

MUST-BUYS: City of Neighbourhoods T-shirts, toques and banners

Spacing Store

A spinoff of urbanist magazine *Spacing*, with city-themed books, clothing and more.

MUST-BUYS: Retro-style TTC posters; Toronto-map cutting board



Crywolf



Real Sports Apparel

57

LUCIAN MATIS

The Romanian-born, Toronto-educated and -based fashion designer hit the international stage when Sophie Grégoire Trudeau wore his creations during official visits to Washington and Tokyo. Find your own Matis showstopper at **Holt Renfrew**.



58 MUKLUKS

Hand-crafted suede, leather and fur, plus intricate beadwork characterize this indigenous footwear that's as functional as it is fashionable. Manitobah Mukluks, an indigenous-owned brand carried at shoe boutiques across the city, recently opened the Storyboot School to pass on the art of mukluk crafting to future generations, via the Bata Shoe Museum.



59 TOQUES

Born from necessity and hometown pride, these cozy, knitted caps (pom-pom optional) are part of every Canadian's winter wardrobe.



60 ICE SKATES

From rural pond skating to big-city, DJ-hosted skate parties (you can find both in Toronto, by the way), ice skating is a part of Canada's DNA.

61 LUMBERJACK FLANNEL

Snuggle into your own Canadian dinner jacket, a.k.a. flannel shirt or work jacket. (Or go all-out in a Canadian tux: that's known as "denim on denim" to you foreigners!)

62 TRAPPER HAT

From chilly dorm rooms to icy hikes, the trapper hat is a Canadian mainstay. Earflaps are de rigueur, while the lining can be shearling, fur or faux.



63 MAPLE LEAF TARTAN

Yes, Canada has its own tartan (so does each province and territory, with the exception of Nunavut). Up your scarf game with a Maple Leaf Tartan in fine merino wool; it's available at The Junction neighbourhood's **Red Canoe**.



SO CANADIAN!



64 MARRIAGE EQUALITY

In 2005, Canada became the fourth country in the world—and the first outside of Europe—to legalize same-sex marriage. Marriage equality is a Canadian value, one pioneered in Toronto, when the Ontario Court of Appeal revised the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples. Just moments after the court decision, on June 10, 2003, Toronto's Michael Leshner and Michael Stark were married in a civil ceremony, Canada's first official gay marriage. Statistics Canada census data showed that by 2011 there were 21,015 same-sex married couples across Canada.

INSTAGRAMMABLE PUBLIC ART

65 → 71

Check out these quintessentially Canadian pieces around town.

► Relax at *The Pasture*, where Saskatchewan artist Joe Fafard created a herd of resting bronze cows to remind us of ties to farmers and the land, in the courtyard of the **Toronto-Dominion Centre**.

► A big, welcoming red canoe you can stand in by famed Canadian writer-artist Douglas Coupland peers over the Gardiner Expressway and offers a view of Lake Ontario at **Canoe Landing**, a park south of Fort York Boulevard.

► Near the ferries that take you to the **Toronto Islands**, hop on the front of the bronze tandem bike statue that is a memorial to much-loved hometown politician **Jack Layton**, former leader of the federal NDP party.

► On the side of an unassuming office building in midtown



Canoe Landing



Graffiti Alley

(Yonge Street and St. Clair Avenue West), the street artist **Phlegm** has created an **eight-storey mural** of a curled-up human figure that on closer view is an intricate composite of Toronto's landmarks and buildings.

► New this year is a statue of **Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II**, the only enthroned statue of her in the world, by artist Ruth Abernethy for the commemoration of Canada's 150th year of Confederation. Fittingly, the statue resides at **Queen's Park**.

► Vibrant, expansive and always evolving, the graffiti alleyway one block south of Queen Street West, starting at Spadina and stretching to Portland Street, is where you can experience the city's urban voice. This roughly 1 km (half-mile) stretch of street art is called **Graffiti Alley** (and also Rush Lane) and is city sanctioned.

► Experience a romantic and pastoral side of the city in Scarborough's lush **Guild Park and Gardens**, where salvaged architecture elements co-exist with sculptures such as *Bear* (1979) by E.B. Cox and Michael Clay, and *Spaceplough I* (1981) by Sorel Etrog.



Jack Layton memorial

72

THE NATIONAL BALLET OF CANADA



Karen Kain, Canada's ballet superstar and the artistic director of the **The National Ballet of Canada**, has put together an impressive lineup for 2017, including *A Streetcar Named Desire* and the Darwin-inspired *Genus*. The company's Sharing Dance Canada initiative, with its aim to get one million Canadians dancing, was chosen as a Canada 150 Signature Project in celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial.



73

TORONTO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Since 2004, Peter Oundjian, the music director of the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra**, has brought international acclaim to the organization and put Toronto on the map. The high note will come this year with the TSO's Canada Mosaic, a project that will reach into the music archive and commission Canadian composers, culminating in a series of themed concerts in honour of Canada's big 150th.

Group of Seven works at
the Art Gallery of Ontario

74

CANADIAN ART

Toronto is home to some of the finest Canadian art from the modern period. Downtown Toronto's **Art Gallery of Ontario** features a permanent Canadian collection with works up until 1985. Included is one of the premier collections of the Group of Seven and their contemporaries, including the renowned Lawren Harris and Emily Carr.

Northwest of the city, in Kleinburg, Ontario, the expansive grounds of the **McMichael**

Canadian Art Collection hold a stunning permanent collection of Canadian art open to the public, including that of the Group of Seven, Tom Thomson, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit art. There is also a sculpture garden and hiking paths on 100 acres of forested land.

For commercial galleries focusing on Canadian contemporary art, head to **Canadian Fine Arts** and **Mayberry Fine Art Gallery** in the central Yorkville neighbourhood.

HOME IN T.O.

76 SHAWN MENDES

The Toronto-born pop star parlayed Vine fame into a bona fide career, complete with the infectious hit "Stitches," a top 10 hit in Canada and the U.S. and a chart-topper in the U.K.



77 DEEPA MEHTA

The transnational, Toronto-based filmmaker tells global stories with a Canadian point of view. Best known for her Elements Trilogy, *Fire, Earth* and the Academy Award-nominated *Water*, the perennial Toronto International Film Festival fave is a Governor General's Performing Arts Award Lifetime Artistic Achievement recipient.



78 MARGARET ATWOOD

Poet, environmental activist, Twitter enthusiast, social commentator and CanLit's most celebrated author, Atwood is a fixture in the upscale boho Annex neighbourhood she's called home for over 30 years.



75 IN THE SKIN OF A LION

Five-time Governor General's Literary Award-winning author Michael Ondaatje's novel *In the Skin of a Lion* describes industrial Toronto, focusing on the building of the modern city in the 1920s and '30s. Steeped in place, the tale's real protagonist is Toronto.



79

John Candy, Eugene Levy, Andrea Martin, Joe Flaherty and Martin Short

SECOND CITY

A *New York Times* columnist nailed it as early as 1993: "Canada has produced some of America's funniest comedians, actors, writers, directors—a veritable army of renegade humor professionals. Without them, there would have been no 'Saturday Night Live,' no 'SCTV,' no *Spy* magazine...no sidekick for David Letterman..."

A justly deserved accolade for Canadian comedians, especially *SCTV* grads. The homegrown talent that trod

the boards of The Second City comedy club, after it opened in downtown Toronto in 1973 and who later appeared in the television spinoff (eventually rebranded as *SCTV*), is a who's who of Hollywood comedy: **John Candy, Catherine O'Hara, Eugene Levy, Dave Thomas, Martin Short.** Even American-born comedians like **Andrea Martin** and **Gilda Radner** got their start with Second City in Toronto.

Watch the funniest movies to come out of Hollywood, and you're bound to see at least one Canadian *SCTV* or Second City alum in the credit roll: Catherine O'Hara and John Candy in *Home Alone*, Eugene Levy in all eight of the *American Pie*



Wayne's World



Bob and Doug McKenzie

films, **Mike Myers** in the *Austin Powers* franchise, **Dan Aykroyd** in *The Blues Brothers* (with John Candy) and *Coneheads*.

Both **Rick Moranis** and Dave Thomas, after introducing their plaid-shirted Doug and Bob McKenzie characters on *SCTV*, eventually headed to Hollywood, where, in a curious twist, Moranis landed his 1984 *Ghostbusters* role because *SCTV* chum John Candy backed out. Moranis, of course, was hilarious in the popular *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* film and its sequels.

At times, the Toronto *SCTV* graduates dominated *Saturday Night Live*—creator **Lorne Michaels**, himself Canadian, was known to scout new talent here. How less funny would *SNL* have been without Dan Aykroyd's Julia Child, Mike Myers' Wayne's World or Martin Short's oddball man-child Ed Grimley?

As proud as we are of these Canadian stars who made it big elsewhere, we're glad when they come home. Is it any surprise that the cast of CBC's latest hit series, *Schitt's Creek*, stars *SCTV* alumni Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara? And is it any surprise that the series—shortly after its successful debut here in Canada—also airs in the U.S.?



SO CANADIAN!

80 **SORRY ...** Unfailingly courteous, Canadians say "sorry" a lot. While in Canada, be sure to say sorry if you bump into someone, someone bumps into you, you need help, you're stepping in to help someone else, you're truly sorry or you're #sorrynotsorry (sorry!).

SORRY!

81

CRONENBERG'S
TORONTO

Acclaimed Canadian film director David Cronenberg uses Toronto as a regular setting. In 1996's *Crash*, James Spader and Holly Hunter explore the subculture of car accidents and sex in and around locations such as Lake Shore Boulevard, the Gardiner Expressway, and Dundas and Bayview. In *Dead Ringers*, character Claire Niveau discovers she's been dating twins in a restaurant set in the conservatory in Casa Loma, while the twins reside in a building by Trinity Square Park, just south of Bay and Dundas. And while *Naked Lunch* was to be filmed in Tangier, Morocco—at the time, it would have been Cronenberg's first movie shot outside of Toronto—the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 forced Cronenberg to film on a soundstage back in (you guessed it!) his own hometown.

Filming of *Suicide Squad*

82 HOLLYWOOD NORTH

Like any best friend, Canada often plays a supporting role to our southern neighbour. Toronto's architecture makes it a reliable stand-in for cities such as New York and Chicago, which is why it has earned the Hollywood North moniker. On TV's *Suits*, our Financial District subs for the Big Apple. The *Resident Evil* franchise used locations like new City Hall, while *Suicide Squad*'s cinematic mayhem filmed near the CF Eaton Centre, along Front Street, and inside Bay and Union subway stations. University of Toronto students are practically honorary Ivy League students, given the number of times U of T has stood in for Harvard and Princeton in flicks like *Good Will Hunting* and *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle*. Pinewood Toronto Studios, meanwhile, has accommodated blockbusters like *Pacific Rim* and *Pixels*.

83–84

AGO + FRANK GEHRY

Having spent his childhood playing in neighbouring Grange Park, it's appropriate that architect Frank Gehry's first Canadian project was the 2008 Art Gallery of Ontario revitalization. Its light-filled, glass-and-wood façade formed part of a 21st-century renaissance in Toronto's cultural architecture, including OCAD University and the Royal Ontario Museum's Crystal.



85

INDIGENOUS ART

Toronto's public art, museums and landmarks include significant examples of Canadian indigenous (also known as First Nations) culture. Here are some of the finest.

The Inukshuk is a familiar, sculptural figure that serves as a multifaceted guide to the Inuit, both practically and symbolically. Traditionally, they were built to act as landmarks on the featureless tundra in the Far North. **Toronto Inukshuk Park** features a 50-tonne mountain rose granite version—one of the largest in North America—created by Kellypalik Qimirqik of Nunavut.

Four totem poles carved by members of the Nisga'a and Haida communities of the Pacific Northwest tower above the stairways at the **Royal Ontario Museum**. A special gallery influenced by Native

advisors resides in the Daphne Cockwell Gallery of Canada: First Peoples and features more than 1,000 artifacts that tell the story of Canada's First Peoples.

The oldest professional indigenous theatre company in Canada, **Native Earth Performing Arts** has a full slate of theatre, dance and multidisciplinary art programming planned for 2017.

The **imagineNATIVE film + Media Arts Festival** happens to be the world's biggest presenter of indigenous screen content. The event, which influences content at other Toronto film festivals, like TIFF and Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, celebrates its 18th birthday in 2017.

Last year was significant for the **Art Gallery of Ontario**, as it hired its first curator of indigenous and Canadian art. Wanda Nanibush, whose roots are Anishinabe from Beausoleil First Nation, has mounted her first exhibition, *Toronto: Tributes + Tributaries*, 1971–1989, which runs until May 2017.

Other strong supporters of Inuit and First Nations art include the **Craft Ontario Shop**, as well as **Gallery Indigena** in The Distillery Historic District.

Toronto
Inukshuk
Park



Royal Ontario Museum

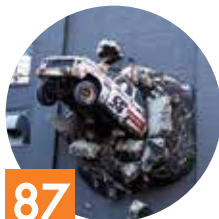


86



THE CBC

Since 1936, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) has provided Canadians with a window to our country and the world. Much of that radio and television perspective is produced from its downtown broadcast centre, whose public attractions include the CBC Museum and performances in the Glenn Gould Studio.



87

MUCH

Much's studios proudly occupy a landmark building at the corner of Queen and John. The epicentre of youth pop culture, Canada's music channel throws the one-night street party known as the iHeartRadio Much Music Video Awards each year, with fans snapping up entry wristbands in less than a minute (in earlier years, fans would line up for days to score them). For a classic photo, take a pic of the CP24 news truck "crashing" out of the brick wall above the building's parking lot.

88

DID YOU KNOW...
Instant replay,
A Hockey Night in
Canada broadcasting
essential, was invented
in Toronto by
the CBC?



89

MAPLE LEAF GARDENS

"Hello, Canada and hockey fans in the United States and Newfoundland." Foster Hewitt's greeting to listeners made Maple Leaf Gardens a national sports shrine. It's no coincidence that

from the time Hewitt helped open the building in 1931 through the Maple Leafs' most recent Stanley Cup victory in 1967, the home team lived near the top of the NHL standings. But more than hockey contributed to the Gardens' mystique. Wrestling and lacrosse matches drew devoted fans. The predecessor to the NBA, the Basketball Association of America debuted there in 1946. Boxing action included the legendary 1966 title fight between Muhammad Ali and George Chuvalo. Musicians from The Beatles to Frank Sinatra, as well as ballet, circuses, opera and even religious revivals graced the marquee.

As one of the few Depression-era public buildings in Toronto, its mix of art deco and art moderne features was preserved after the Maple Leafs and Raptors departed in 1999. A fine example of adaptive reuse, the building reopened in 2012 with a supermarket and Ryerson University's Mattamy Athletic Centre. An upper-level ice rink and mementos scattered around the premises maintain links to the Gardens' glorious past.

90 JAYS' BACK-TO-BACK WORLD SERIES WINS

For two seasons (1992–93), Canada sat atop the baseball world. Memories of Joe Carter's bottom-of-the-ninth World Series-winning homer in '93 still make local fans misty eyed.



91 JOSE BAUTISTA'S BAT FLIP

The mic drop of bat flips, Bautista's meme-building move amplified fan excitement during the Blue Jays' thrilling 2015 playoff run. Catch Canada's MLB team at Rogers Centre from April through September.



HOME IN T.O.

92 GLENN GOULD

Sitting next to legendary pianist Glenn Gould's statue outside the Canadian Broadcasting Centre, you can appreciate his genius, as well as his eccentricities (such as the heavy layers of clothing he always wore). Other memorials to one of Canada's most internationally celebrated musicians include a plaque outside his old apartment at 110 St. Clair Ave. W.



93 OSCAR PETERSON

One of the world's greatest jazz pianists, Oscar Peterson's 60-year career started when he won a CBC music competition at age 14. In the following decades, the virtuoso picked up numerous Grammy Awards and was made an officer of the Order of Canada. The financial district's Oscar Peterson Square is named in his honour.



94 THE TRAGICALLY HIP

A third of Canada's population tuned in on TV, radio and online for the farewell concert of this beloved band. Toronto references abound in their lyrics, from the Toronto Maple Leafs to the Horseshoe Tavern's checkerboard floor.



95

TORONTO FC

Reflecting the city's long-standing, intense passion for soccer at all skill levels, Toronto FC plays at BMO Field during the regular season, which runs from March through October.



96

CFL FOOTBALL

There's more to football than the NFL: One of North America's oldest pro sports teams (founded in 1873), the Toronto Argonauts play their Canadian Football League rivals at BMO Field during the regular season, which runs June through November.



SO CANADIAN!

97

THE DOUBLE-DOUBLE

Step into any Timmy's (as Canucks call Tim Hortons) and order a double-double. That's two creams, two sugars. Are there other ways to order your coffee? Yes, but double-double is (arguably) the most Canadian way.



98-99 RAPTORS & JAYS: CANADA'S TEAMS

It was a simple, brilliant phrase: "We The North." Created as a marketing campaign for the **Toronto Raptors** as the team approached its 20th anniversary in 2015, it wound up representing the city's—and the country's—pride in its only NBA franchise. The ads caught the essence of Toronto's grassroots basketball culture and position as outsiders in an American sports league. The campaign's timing was perfect, as the Raptors transformed from perennial also-rans into legitimate contenders.

It doesn't hurt that the Raptors have Drake in their corner. Since 2013, the singer has served as their official global ambassador, boosting the cool factor for the team and for Toronto overall. His presence drew new fans, increased merchandise sales, livened up the team bench and created an aura around the Raptors that attracts free agents. "As a result," *GQ* magazine observes, "when Drake sits courtside, he has a certain investment in the team that most famous fans don't have."

As the Raptors' fortunes rose, so did MLB's **Toronto Blue Jays**. While their steady rise from expansion team to back-to-back World Series champions

generated excitement during the Jays' first two decades, the 21st century wasn't so kind. Ten years ago, attendance was near the bottom of the pack, and it seemed that the Blue Jays were condemned to permanent playoff exile. Even becoming Canada's lone MLB team after the Montreal Expos departed in 2004 lifted few spirits.

But there's nothing like an exciting pennant race to revive interest. The 2015 squad, whose offensive power was boosted by late-season trades, reawakened the city's passion for baseball. Ticket sales and television ratings skyrocketed, raising attendance to third in the majors. Blue Jays hats and shirts became hip fashion accessories. The team's Twitter following passed one million, placing them atop all pro teams in Canada as fans embraced hashtags like #ComeTogether and #OurMoment. Then, in 2016, the team made another thrilling post-season run, winning the American League Division Series. That cemented a passion that has overcome traditional regional rivalries, uniting sports fans from coast to coast—a national poll found that over 78 percent of respondents named the Blue Jays their favourite baseball team.

100 LACROSSE

Canada's official national summer sport, lacrosse traces its roots to ball games played among indigenous (a.k.a. First Nations) groups, to maintain and improve diplomatic alliances. By the 1860s, lacrosse was so popular that teams travelled abroad and a national governing body was formed, making it one of Canada's first organized sports. Catch the modern game when the Rock play at the Air Canada Centre from January through April.







Nathan Phillips Square

101
DID YOU KNOW...
Five-pin bowling
was invented in
Toronto?

OUTDOOR FUN!

Canada is known for its active lifestyle. Make the most of it in Toronto.

► Take a hike in **Rouge National Urban Park**, Canada's first urban national park.

► Rent a canoe or a kayak and paddle the **Toronto Islands**.

► Run a few laps in **High Park**, or along the waterfront's **Martin Goodman Trail**.

► Ski or snowboard in **Centennial Park**. Or snowshoe in **High Park**.

► Try SUP (stand-up paddleboarding) at **Cherry Beach**.

► Bike, wheel or hand-cycle the **Pan Am Path**, a legacy of the 2016 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, to be completed in 2017.

► Ice skate at Harbourfront's **Natrel Rink**, **Nathan Phillips Square** or any local park rink.

► Walk at the east end's beautiful **Scarborough Bluffs**.

► Tee off at a central 18-hole course, like the **Don Valley Golf Course**, **Humber**

Valley Golf Course or **Dentonia Park**. Or head west to Mississauga's **Lakeview**, north to Kleinburg's **Copper Creek** or **Osprey Valley**, or east to Ajax's **Deer Creek** or Whitby's **Royal Ashburn**.

► Go swimming at Blue Flag-certified **Woodbine Beach**.



HOME IN T.O.

104 TOM LONGBOAT

One of Canada's most celebrated 20th-century athletes, the Onondaga runner once held every Canadian distance record, from the mile to the marathon. In an era that saw distance running as serious entertainment, Longboat overcame racism to gain international recognition, winning the Boston Marathon (1907) and New York's World's Professional Marathon Championship (1909), and representing Canada at the 1908 Summer Olympics. The national hero (he also served in both World Wars) and Canadian Sports Hall of Famer is honoured throughout the city as the namesake of a public school, running club and the annual Longboat Toronto Island Run race series.



105 ATOM EGOYAN

The Egyptian-born film director was raised in Victoria, British Columbia, before he moved to Toronto to attend university and launch his career. His 1980s rise was inexorably entwined with that of the Toronto International Film Festival, where his films have been regular headliners over the past four decades.



103 LEAFY FOREST WALKS

More than a quarter of Toronto sits under tree canopy, which cleans the air and provides a leafy escape. Need a nature break? Stroll **High Park**, **Moore Park Ravine**, the **Humber Valley** and the **Leslie Street Spit**.



106 SQUIRRELS

Love 'em or hate 'em (c'mon, only grouches hate them!), squirrels are a familiar species of urban wildlife. Toronto's squirrel population consists mainly of red squirrels and eastern grey squirrels (which come in grey and black), plus the mythical white (albino) squirrel, unique to Trinity Bellwoods Park and the name of a café across the street.

107 POLAR BEARS

The snowy ursine is the Great White North personified. Canada hosts about two-thirds of the world's population of this threatened species. The Ontario population calls the sea ice of Hudson Bay and James Bay home from late fall to early summer (they roam farther during winter), but you can find them in Scarborough, too. Head to the **Toronto Zoo** to see baby Juno, as well as mom Aurora, in their Tundra Trek habitat.

108 BLUE JAYS

Canada's only MLB team is named after the boisterous bird, found in local forests and backyard feeding stations year-round. Head to a mixed evergreen/deciduous wooded area to spot one—try **High Park** and the **Don Valley**.



109 BEAVERS

There would be no Canada without the beaver. The earliest explorers came in search of the animal's dense, soft pelt, and well before that, the indigenous population had been utilizing this precious natural resource. Beavers are

also key players in Canada's regional ecosystems: by felling trees and creating dams, they open up dense forests to other plant and animal species, creating new habitats and increasing biodiversity. One of Canada's emblems, the world's second-largest rodent still resides in Toronto's urban wilderness. Head to the **Leslie Street Spit** or **High Park** to try to spot these iconic creatures or at least their dams.



110 THE EX

The **Canadian National Exhibition**, fondly referred to as The Ex, is at the heart of many a Torontonian's childhood memories. While nowadays it's perceived as a giant carnival with a midway, air show and wacky county-fair menu (highlights have included deep-fried butter, cricket-covered hot dogs and pulled-pork cinnamon rolls), it was founded in 1879 to foster development of agriculture, industry and the arts. Glimpses of the original goal are revealed at The Farm's animal exhibits and 2016's innovation hub. The Ex's Labour Day closing heralds the unofficial end of summer.

111 FIRST NATIONS

Toronto has an extensive indigenous (a.k.a. First Nations) history. Rather than belonging to one First Nations community, it's been home to many since the 1600s, including the Hurons, Iroquois (i.e., Seneca and Mohawk) and Anishinabe (Mississaugas and Ojibwa). In fact, the word *Toronto* is said to originate from the Mohawk word *Tkaranto*, meaning "where there are trees in water."

Want to learn more about the city's indigenous roots? The **Native Canadian Centre of Toronto** operates the guided First Story Toronto Bus Tour (for groups only), which includes stops at significant historical landmarks. You can also download the free First Story app on iTunes or Google Play.



112 THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

Each November, animal lovers flock to the Royal Horse Show and the trick-happy President's Choice SuperDogs, but the fair is also a culinary hot spot, with food and wine sampling, cooking demos and a gourmet market.



SO CANADIAN!

113 MOUNTED POLICE Ever been pulled over by a horse? While you're unlikely to spot a traditional red-jacket-clad RCMP officer in Toronto, it's not uncommon to see a member of the Toronto mounted unit on patrol. The best place to spot one is near Exhibition Place, where the stable, the Horse Palace, is located.



114 TIFF

The Toronto International Film Festival is one of the world's highest-profile film fests. Attracting A-list actors and directors (such as George Clooney, Ben Affleck, Kenneth Lonergan and Angelina Jolie), and the general public, TIFF creates such fanfare that North America's fourth-largest city devotes a busy downtown intersection to the fest and rolls out the red carpet for 11 days each September. TIFF is renowned for another reason, too: its prognostication of future Oscar winners. Past TIFF People's Choice Award winners *12 Years a Slave*, *Slumdog Millionaire* and *The King's Speech*, to name just a few, have all gone on to win Oscar gold.



115 CANADIAN MUSIC WEEK

Canadian bands and musicians get a boost each year at **Canadian Music Week**. Lovers of home grown music wait each year for the festival, where they can catch acts like k-os, Ron Sexsmith and Arcade Fire.

116 TORONTO URBAN ROOTS FEST

Loved for its laid-back late-summer 'tude, the annual Toronto Urban Roots Fest presents top indie bands. Death Cab for Cutie, Matthew Good and James Bay all hit the stage last year.

117 HOT DOCS

Volunteer-driven and held in one of the oldest movie theatres in the city (the recently renamed Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema), among others, Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival is proudly the largest documentary fest in North America, screening more than 200 docs, both Canadian and international, to more than 200,000 people annually.



SO CANADIAN!



118 ACCEPTANCE

Canadians value diversity... and order. Both came together when all-gender bathrooms debuted at the 2016 CNE (see #110), joining similar facilities at the Royal Ontario Museum and Ryerson University. With Male, Female, Family and the CNE's sassy "We Don't Care" bathrooms, everyone is welcome—and the lines move much more quickly, too!



119



CN TOWER

The tallest free-standing structure in the western hemisphere, the iconic CN Tower provides awe-inspiring views of the region and serves over 16 radio and television stations.

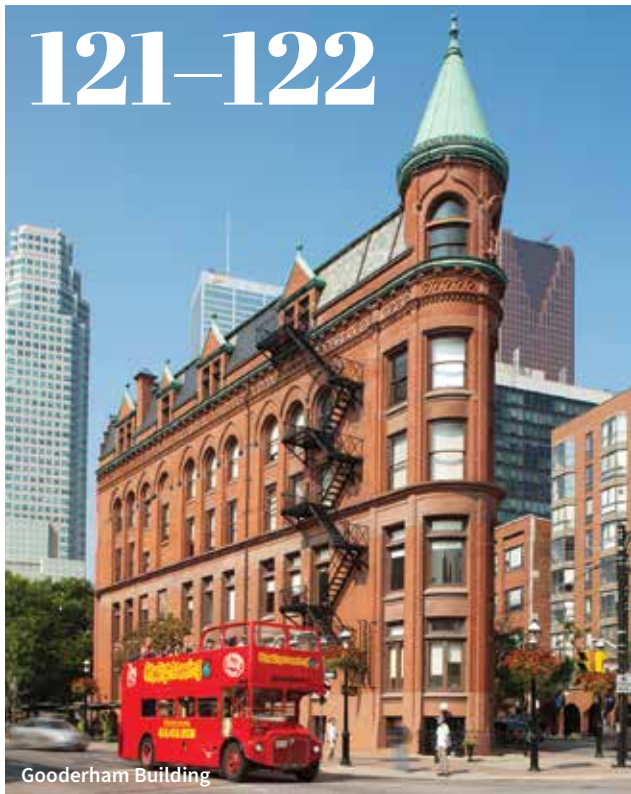


120

HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

Take a selfie with the Stanley Cup, score a goal during a sim game or find your own way to celebrate Canada's official winter sport at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

121–122



Gooderham Building

ST. LAWRENCE MARKET + OLD TOWN

Modern Toronto's tale can be told via the historical highlights of Old Town, the original area of the Town of York. Step back into Canada's past with a walking tour of the neighbourhood.

Tour the Gothic revival St. James Cathedral, built on the site of Toronto's first church, then walk south to the iconic Gooderham Building (a.k.a. the Flatiron Building). Dating back to 1892, the landmark offers a great photo op from both ends—the curved front façade against the backdrop of the Financial District's glass towers and its impressive trompe l'oeil mural on the back wall.

Head east to experience the culinary delights (artisanal cheeses, fresh seafood) of the St. Lawrence Market. Once the site of Toronto's first permanent city hall, the market features

St. Lawrence Market



more than 120 vendors, merchants and artisans and was voted best market in the world by *National Geographic*.

For a more in-depth overview of the area's fascinating 200-plus-year history, book a 90-minute guided walk with Bruce Bell, St. Lawrence Market's official tour guide and historian.

HOME IN T.O.

123

RACHEL McADAMS

The Notebook star is an Annex resident and York University grad who bikes around town, is a Toronto International Film Festival regular and has even attended a social justice protest or two.



124

SARAH POLLEY

She won the hearts of Canadians as Sara Stanley on CBC television's *Road to Avonlea*, but the Toronto-born actress and social activist is also an award-winning writer and director—her films *Away from Her*, *Take This Waltz* and *Stories We Tell* were shot in and around the city.



125

SCOTT PILGRIM

Flipping through Bryan Lee O'Malley's *Scott Pilgrim* graphic novels (or watching the film adaptation starring Brampton-born Michael Cera) offers plenty of Toronto's urban geography. Locations include Bloor Street in The Annex, Casa Loma, Honest Ed's, Lee's Palace, Sneaky Dee's, an older location of Sonic Boom, and the Toronto Reference Library.



126 YONGE STREET

Toronto's most famous street honours Sir George Yonge, Great Britain's secretary at war from 1782 to 1794, and a friend of Upper Canada's Lt.-Gov. John Graves Simcoe. Simcoe designated the Queen's Rangers as the core of Upper Canada's defence force in 1791. Three years later, soldiers from the Queen's Rangers began clearing the route that would reach Lake Simcoe and become Toronto's main street—once deemed “the longest street in the world” by the Guinness World Records.

Toronto Islands



127 EXPLORATION BY CANOE

Discover the **Toronto Islands** like one of Canada's early explorers (minus the hard-ship). Start with a leisurely, guided paddle in a replica heritage freighter canoe, from the city's harbourfront to the Toronto Islands' secluded waterways. After working up an appetite exploring North America's largest car-free community, you'll be ready for a shore-side, chef-prepared feast made from Ontario ingredients at **Culinary Adventure Co.** Bring your camera, as the paddle back to town features a jaw-dropping vantage of Toronto's eminently Instagrammable skyline.

architecture and Great Hall symbolized its role as the main gateway to Toronto and soon welcomed travellers, troops and immigrants. As modes of transportation shifted, Union retained its position as the city's hub, embracing commuter train and subway passengers. Its current revitalization plan is improving facilities for the more than 250,000 who pass through it daily.

128 UNION STATION

Railways have played a key role in Canadian history, from moving goods and passengers to the national symbolism of a transcontinental line tying together east and west. When Union Station opened in 1927, its grand beaux arts





129

NEIGHBOURHOOD DIVERSITY

Toronto is known for its multicultural flair, with a robust newcomer population and thriving stores and restaurants catering to their communities—and Torontonians at large. Here are several worth visiting.

LITTLE ITALY

Little Italy has evolved from a mostly Italian area to a more diverse mix of restaurants, cafés and cozy but lively bars. It's still as busy and as bustling as ever, especially in the evenings. Head to the intersection of College and Grace streets via the 506 Carlton streetcar to hit its epicentre.



Corso Italia



Little Italy

CORSO ITALIA

North of Little Italy, on St. Clair Avenue West (between Dufferin Street and Lansdowne Avenue), is another vibrant area with Italian roots, with clothing, bridal and shoe stores that evoke the Old World, plus casual restaurants, pizzerias and great gelato.

GERRARD INDIA BAZAAR

A main street marketplace of South Asian goods: find colourful saris, gorgeous fabrics, fine jewellery and food in Toronto's east end, at Gerrard Street East and Ashdale Avenue. The 506 Carlton streetcar route runs right through it.

KOREA TOWN

Made-in-Korea goods, including its famed beauty products, plus grocery stores, 24-hour restaurants and private karaoke rooms mean Korea Town is always a hub of activity on Bloor Street between Christie and Bathurst streets.

LITTLE PORTUGAL

Restaurants, butchers, green grocers, a hip bar scene and

Gerrard India Bazaar



Korea Town

Portuguese bakeries with *papo seco* buns stacked high bring not only daytime shoppers but also nightlife to Dundas Street West between Shaw Street and Rusholme Road.

LAWRENCE MANOR

Whether you keep kosher or just have a hankering to nosh at an authentic Jewish delicatessen, head uptown to Bathurst Street north of Lawrence Avenue, where bookstores, gift shops and restaurants reflect the surrounding Orthodox Jewish community.

LATIN AMERICA

Although not officially a Latin American neighbourhood, a small, somewhat diffuse collection of stores and restaurants on St. Clair West, between Oakwood Avenue and Dufferin Street, serve the city's Central and South American expats.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Barbershops, beauty shops and takeout food from the islands of the Caribbean dominate this midtown-west area of Eglinton Avenue between Marlee Avenue and Dufferin Street, but there are also clothing stores, bakeries and restaurants with an international flavour.



Old Chinatown

130–134

CHINATOWN(S)

Toronto is unique in having five Chinatowns. Their history reflects that of Toronto's Chinese-Canadian community. The construction of the nation-building Canadian Pacific Railway in the late 1800s was powered by Chinese immigrant labourers, many of whom settled in Toronto afterwards. By the 1920s, **First Chinatown** sprang up around Dundas Street West near Bay Street. Over the years, it was eclipsed by the newer **Old Chinatown** that popped up a few blocks west, following subsequent waves of Chinese immigration from the 1960s onward. Today, only a few Chinese restaurants remain in the First Chinatown area, while Toronto's dominant Old Chinatown (known simply as Chinatown) flourishes at the nexus of Spadina Avenue, between College and Dundas streets. **Chinatown East**

formed in the 1970s when Chinese families (both newly immigrated and already established) moved cross town to the leafy Riverdale neighbourhood. Meanwhile, Toronto's youngest Chinatowns are located in the city's periphery, where more recent waves of immigrants have settled. **Agincourt-Scarborough Chinatown** to the east, and **Markham Chinatown** to the north. Upshot: If Chinatown exploration is on your vacation agenda, better give yourself more than a day.



Chinatown East



SO CANADIAN!

135 TOONIES + LOONIES Named after the loon gracing its reverse side, the loonie is Canada's \$1 coin. The \$2 coin is the toonie (two-nie, get it?), even though the animal depicted on it is actually a polar bear.



HOME IN T.O.

136 NED HANLAN

Toronto born and raised, the athlete became Canada's first individual world champ back in 1880, when he defeated sculling rivals in the Thames River, in London, England. After an illustrious sporting career, Hanlan moved to local politics and was an early advocate of bike lanes and public swimming pools. Hanlan's Point, on the Toronto Islands, is named for his father, John Hanlan, who operated a hotel in the area.



137 JANE JACOBS

A visionary who promoted community-based urban planning, Jane Jacobs fought for human-scale development that embraced city living. In the late 1960s and early '70s, she was involved in the fight to preserve The Annex neighbourhood from being destroyed by the Spadina Expressway, and the creation of the mixed-income, mixed-use St. Lawrence neighbourhood in the 1970s. Her encouragement to familiarize people with their surroundings inspired Jane's Walk, an annual celebration of her ideas, which has grown into a global event.



138 KENSINGTON MARKET

The original multicultural marketplace, this funky downtown neighbourhood of bohemian boutiques, affordable eats and ethnic groceries has evolved alongside Canada's immigration demographics. European Jews settled here in the early 1900s, followed by waves of Asian, Portuguese, Caribbean, Latin American and other émigré communities. The ethnic mishmash of shops and restaurants filling Kensington's compact streets offers a tantalizing stew of Canadian diversity and eclecticism—the kind Toronto has perfected.

139 RIVERDALE FARM

A historic-style farm in the heart of the Cabbagetown neighbourhood, **Riverdale Farm** introduces city kids to Canada's rural roots. The 7.5-acre property includes a small working farm, as well as butterfly, herb, flower and vegetable gardens, plus an assortment of chickens, turkeys, waterfowl, pigs, cows, goats and sheep.



140 FORT YORK NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The birthplace of modern Toronto—and a testament to Canadian resistance to U.S. encroachment Fort York was conceived by John Graves Simcoe in 1793 to defend the Lake Ontario shoreline, the entry to the Town of York. It played an explosive role during the Battle of York in 1813 and helped repel a subsequent invasion attempt the following year. Canada's largest surviving collection of War of 1812 buildings has been joined by a visitor centre and is a popular festival venue.



141 THE DISTILLERY HISTORIC DISTRICT

Home to Canada's largest complex of Victorian-era industrial architecture, this artsy enclave of galleries and cafés exemplifies the beauty of urban revitalization. In winter, it oozes holiday magic as the outdoor Toronto Christmas Market transforms its cobblestone lanes into a European-style outdoor marketplace.

142 CANADA'S WALK OF FAME

Canadians who have excelled in their respective fields are honoured with stars along a prime stretch of sidewalk in the downtown theatre district. Illustrious Canucks who've made the cut include author Mordecai Richler, hockey star Mario Lemieux and actress Sandra Oh, just for starters.



143 NIAGARA FALLS

If there's time for just one trip out of Toronto, Niagara is a sure bet. The #Claimthe8th social media campaign to get Niagara Falls declared the eighth Wonder of the World is picking up steam: go and you'll see why. (Just. Wow.)

144 DEGRASSI STREET

This street has never lacked for teen angst—even before it was made famous by the Canadian TV show that bears its name. Its namesakes, sisters Charlotte and Cornelia De Grassi, at the tender ages of 15 and 13, respectively, served as government spies during the Rebellion of 1837.

145



BOHEMIAN YORKVILLE

Today's Yorkville is synonymous with Harry Rosen, Holt Renfrew and Prada. But in the 1960s, the big draw wasn't Gucci but Gordon (Lightfoot, that is). Yorkville once boasted about 40 clubs and coffee houses featuring live music every night of the week, and was incubator for Canada's 1960s music scene. Buffy Sainte-Marie wrote her famous Vietnam protest anthem at the Purple Onion on Avenue Road, in a building that later sold couture fashions. The popular Riverboat Coffee House on Yorkville Avenue fuelled the music careers of Canadian stars Neil Young, Bruce Cockburn and Murray McLachlan, among others. It's where Joni Mitchell first played her hugely popular "Both Sides, Now."

It's fitting that the multi-Juno-award-winning Neil Young would later pay tribute to Yorkville in "Ambulance Blues," when he sang, "Back in the old folky days ... the riverboat was rockin' in the rain."

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MEDICAL R&D HOT SPOT

The 1921 discovery of insulin by University of Toronto researchers Dr. Frederick Banting and Charles Best was a game-changer. Banting won the Nobel Prize in 1923 (with Dr. John Macleod, who had encouraged his research), and the duo's breakthrough put Toronto on the map as a research leader.

Toronto has been the site of significant medical breakthroughs in the decades following Banting and Best's success. In 1930, The Hospital for Sick Children researchers invented Pablum, revolutionizing infant nutrition around the world. In the 1960s, Ontario Cancer Institute researchers James Till and Dr. Ernest McCulloch discovered transplantable stem cells, essentially kicking off the field of stem cell science. Further Toronto-based stem

cell discoveries include U of T professor Derek van der Kooy's discovery of retinal stem cells (2000), The Hospital for Sick Children's Research Institute scientist Freda Miller's identification of skin stem cells (2001), and Ontario Institute for Cancer Research scientist John Dick's identification of human colon cancer stem cells (2007).

In the field of immunology, Tak Wah Mak was first to identify the structure of the T-cell receptor (1984), a stumbling block to research until then.

Toronto cemented its reputation as Canada's research capital, with world-renowned hospitals; the U of T medical school; and the MaRS Discovery District, a U of T co-founded innovation and research hub, which houses a variety of biomedical and tech companies, including some U of T labs. Fittingly, Toronto hosts more medical conventions than any other city in North America.



DID YOU KNOW...



147 ... the electron microscope was invented at the University of Toronto?



148 ... the electronic pager was invented in Toronto?



149 ... Canadarm, the multi-jointed, external robotic arm used by NASA space shuttles, was invented by Toronto's Spar Aerospace?



SO CANADIAN!



150 **PRIDE** Pride Toronto celebrates sexual and gender diversity each June with one of the world's largest LGBTQ Pride festivals. The event includes parties, concerts, film screenings, performances, speaker series and workshops, culminating in the Trans* March, Dyke March and Pride Parade, luring close to 500,000 participants each year. Toronto is renowned for its diversity and fun party vibe, making Pride a must on many Canadians' social calendar—Prime Minister Justin Trudeau marched with the parade in 2016.

